



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 14, 2002

H.R. 2621 **Consumer Product Protection Act of 2002**

As reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on May 8, 2002

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2621 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Enacting H.R. 2621 could affect direct spending and receipts, so pay-as-you-go procedures would apply to the bill; however, CBO estimates that any impact on direct spending and receipts would not be significant. H.R. 2621 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 2621 would make it a federal crime to intentionally tamper with a consumer product by placing writing on or inside the packaging of the product. Violators would be subject to imprisonment and fines. As a result, the federal government would be able to pursue cases that it otherwise would not be able to prosecute. CBO expects that any increase in federal costs for law enforcement, court proceedings, or prison operations would not be significant, however, because of the small number of cases likely to be involved. Any additional costs to implement the bill would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Because those prosecuted and convicted under the provisions of H.R. 2621 could be subject to criminal fines, the federal government might collect additional fines if the bill is enacted. Collections of such fines are recorded in the budget as governmental receipts (revenues), which are deposited in the Crime Victims Fund and spent in subsequent years. CBO expects that any additional receipts and direct spending would be negligible.

On September 26, 2001, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 1233, the Product Packaging Protection Act of 2001, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on September 6, 2001. The bills are similar and the cost estimates are identical.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Lanette J. Walker. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.